

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 – 6 and 9 – 37 were pending at the time of the current Official Action. Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 9 – 30 have been rejected, while claims 31 – 37 have been allowed, and Claim 2 has been objected to, but stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, Claim 1 has now been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2 and Claims 12 – 30 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3 – 6, 9 – 12, 31 – 37, and new Claim 38, now remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 4 – 6, and 9 – 11 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over *Johnson, et al.* in view of *McCue, et al.* Claim 3 additionally has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over *Johnson, et al.* in view of *McCue, et al.* and *Jones, et al.* Lastly, Claims 12 – 30 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over *McCue, et al.* and *Struzer*.

In the interests of expediting the prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice or disclaimer to the rights of the applicants to pursue the subject matter of Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 9 – 30 in any later filed continuing application, Applicants have now amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 2, which was stated to be allowable, and have canceled Claims 12 – 30. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 9 – 11, as now pending, are in condition for allowance over the cited art of record.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31 – 37 have been stated to be allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 2 was similarly stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2, which has now been canceled, and Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 9 – 11 are believed to be allowable over the cited art of record as discussed above.

IV. New Claim 38

New Claim 38 has been added, and is dependent from Claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that new Claim 38 is allowable over the cited art of record.

V. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing response, he is invited and urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0037
(404) 962-7527

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew Claerbout
Reg. #50,202
D. Scott Sudderth
Reg. # 34,026

Docket No.: R122 1020.2